

Where can I find the AFRI Childhood Obesity Prevention RFA?

The 2011 AFRI Childhood Obesity Prevention RFA can be found at:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/11_child_obese.pdf

Where can I find other information that will help me apply to AFRI programs?

Links to slides with additional information about the AFRI Childhood Obesity Prevention RFA:

http://nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_fas_child_obesity.html

Links to additional resources related to AFRI can be found at:

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html>

For additional resources related to planning and submitting a funding application for integrated projects, see: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/integrated/integrated.html>

For information about projects related to obesity funded by AFRI, in 2009 see:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2010news/04131_afri_obesity.html.

You can also find links to all AFRI projects funded in 2009, 2010, and 2011 (these are listed by state, not by program), see: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_reports.html.

For abstracts of projects related to obesity prevention funded by AFRI's predecessor program, the National Research Initiative, see:

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/nri/nri_abstracts_topic.html. Scroll down the page to "Human Nutrition and Obesity." The reports link in the left-hand column leads to a list of all active projects, the link in the center column leads to a list of research projects, and the link in the right-hand column leads to a list of integrated projects.

For FAQs related to submitting a grant application to NIFA programs, see:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/home/faq_apply.html

For resources related to electronic submission of grant applications to any NIFA program (including AFRI), please see: <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html>

If you have never submitted a grant application electronically using Grants.gov, please see:

http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp. Please allow adequate time for this process. *AFRI will not accept late applications.*

When is my application due?

Applications submitted to Program Area A2101 (Integrated, Research, Education and Extension to Prevent Childhood Obesity), must be submitted via Grants.gov by 5:00 pm *Eastern Time* on WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your application is submitted on time. *Applications received after the application deadline will not be reviewed.*

I'm having problems downloading, completing or submitting my application for funding. Where can I get help?

For assistance downloading or navigating Adobe forms, refer to resources on the Grants.gov website first. Grants.gov customer support is available 24/7 (except on Federal holidays) at 1-800-518-4726; email support@grants.gov.

Also see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html> for additional resources for applying electronically.

When can I expect to be notified regarding the outcome of the review process?

We anticipate making award notifications by October 20.

If I get funded, when can I expect my award to start?

We anticipate starting awards on Feb. 1, 2012.

What are the limits on indirect costs for applications submitted to AFRI Programs?

NIFA is prohibited from paying indirect costs exceeding 22% of total Federal funds awarded. This limitation is equivalent to 0.28205 of the total direct costs of the award. For example, if the total amount of funds awarded is \$500,000, indirect costs are limited to \$110,000 ($0.22 \times \$500,000$). Direct costs would then be \$390,000. The indirect costs can also be determined by multiplying direct costs (\$390,000 in this example) $\times 0.28205$, which gives you \$110,000 when rounded to the nearest dollar. Please see pages 26-28 of the RFA for more information on indirect costs.

Is my organization eligible to submit an application for funding to the AFRI Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area?

This year AFRI is only requesting applications for integrated project grants, (Program Area A2101). The eligibility requirements for integrated project grants are as follows:

Eligible applicants for Integrated Projects include: (1) colleges and universities; (2) 1994 Land-Grant Institutions; and (3) Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities. The terms "college" and "university" mean an educational institution in any state which (1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing

secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate; (2) is legally authorized within such state to provide a program of education beyond secondary education; (3) provides an educational program for which a bachelor's degree or any other higher degree is awarded; (4) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and (5) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association. A research foundation maintained by a college or university is eligible to receive an award under this program.

Can I submit more than one application to the Childhood Obesity Challenge Area?

Under AFRI rules, you may not submit duplicate, essentially duplicate, or predominately overlapping applications to one or more program areas within AFRI or to another NIFA program within the same fiscal year. You may submit more than one application as Project Director to one Challenge Area *if* the applications do not have overlapping objectives. However, remember that funding is limited and you are essentially competing with yourself. The same panel will be reviewing all applications submitted to the Childhood Obesity Challenge Area this year. Our experience is that reviewers tend to be negative about multiple applications submitted by the same Project Director. We recommend that you serve as Project Director on one application and co-Project Director on another. Reviewers will also look at your time commitments on your Current and Pending support information included in your application, to make sure you have adequate time to manage the project should all your pending projects be funded.

Can a New Investigator submit a proposal and be competitive, or is AFRI only looking for established investigators?

New Investigators are encouraged to submit applications to Program Area A2101 (Integrated Research, Education and Extension to Prevent Childhood Obesity). In FY 2010, two proposals submitted by New Investigators have been ranked as "Outstanding" and were recommended for funding.

The key to success for a New Investigator is to assemble a strong project team with some established investigators and experienced extension personnel. If reviewers feel that you have co-Project Directors who can guide you, they will accept a more junior faculty member as a Project Director. They will also look at your Current and Pending support information to make sure you have the time available to commit to the project. You may ask for salary support for yourself if needed, for example if you need to buy out of teaching time to have time to manage the project.

Do we have to include USDA eXtension Communities in our proposed study?

Projects *may include* as part of their budget request funds for the development of a new Community of Practice or the development of content suitable for delivery through an existing eXtension Community of Practice. The content may include articles, curricula, interactive tools, videos and Webinars for consumers. These are examples, not requirements. If you do plan on

using eXtension as part of your extension component, you must get a letter of support from the relevant Community of Practice; please allow at least one month for this process. For more information about opportunities to include eXtension Communities of Practice in AFRI Proposals, see <http://create.extension.org/node/2895>. For the application process for developing a new or enhancing an existing Community of Practice, see <http://create.extension.org/node/2057>.

What is a continuation award?

A continuation award is an award instrument by which the Department agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined period of time with a statement of intention to provide additional support at a future date: provided that 1) performance has been satisfactory, 2) appropriations are available for this purpose, and 3) continued support would be in the best interest of the Federal government and the public. Awardees are expected to participate in a rigorous post-award management activity to be determined by the Agency Contact at the formative stages of the project.

Could you please clarify if all integrated projects need to be multi-state?

Standard integrated projects (submitted to Program Area A2101, Integrated Research, Education, and Extension to Prevent Childhood Obesity) must be multi-disciplinary in nature but do not have to be multi-institutional (although this is strongly encouraged) or multi-state.

Can I request funds to improve the quality of meals served in schools or childcare facilities?

USDA does not generally pay for meals, no matter the nutritional quality, unless it is part of an ongoing conference/workshop and not providing the meal would interrupt the continuity of the meeting. USDA may also pay for food that is part of a demonstration or an educational lesson.

Can I use AFRI money to develop a garden to teach children about gardening and healthy eating?

That will depend on the details of your individual project. Funds made available for grants under the AFRI program shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees). If you are uncertain if some of your project costs are allowable, please email the Program Area contact listed in the RFA and we will forward your question to the NIFA Office of Grants and Financial Management.

Can I use AFRI money to purchase a farm to teach children about gardening and healthy eating?

Unfortunately, grant programs offered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture are prevented by law from supporting the acquisition of land and other facilities and supporting general farm operations. The good news is that other parts of USDA are specifically tasked with these kinds of activities. You may start with the [USDA Rural Information Center](#) which has a summary of opportunities in all agencies. You may also find the publication, “[Building Sustainable Farms, Ranches and Communities, Federal Programs for Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, Entrepreneurship, Conservation and Community Development](#)” to be useful.